under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, an estimated 70,000 persons would develop oral cancers in the country in the year 2001.

(b) The Society for Cancer in Oral Cavity, Prevention through Education, Hyderabad has filed a writ petition in High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad seeking direction to prevent manufacture, sale and consumption of Pan Masala, Gutka and Zarda etc.

(c) A comprehensive draft Bill on Tobacco & Tobacco Products has been introduced in the Parliament for discouraging use of Tobacco and its products. The bill is under the examination of the Department — related Standing Committee on HRD of the Rajya Sabha.

Meeting with the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

55. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation from the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry called on him some time back in Mumbai in connection with the difficulties being experienced by the Industry for carrying out research and experimentation on animals;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised by the delegation; and

(c) the details of assurance given by him to the delegation and the follow up action, if any, taken to fulfill the assurance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue was informally raised. However, no formal representation was given. The delegation raised the point that the research based pharmaceutical industry has to invest heavily for 'new drug discovery research'. Approval of any new molecule for human studies requires generation of adequate pre clinical safety data on different species of animals. This is also a statutory requirement under Schedule 'Y' of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945. Further in view of the new IPR Regime under TRIPS agreement *i.e.* product patent from 2005, there is an increasing need for Indian firms to discover and develop new drugs.

However, the rules prescribed for animal experimentation and procedure prescribed by CPCSEA (Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of experiments and Animals) makes it very difficult for research based industry to use larger animals like Beagle Dogs and Monkey. Being a statutory

requirement companies have to conduct such studies through private contract research organizations abroad which is very costly.

Pharmaceutical Industry desired to remove such impediments by modifying the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules.

The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

Bill for monitoring guidelines in medical research

56. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to bring forward a Bill during the Winter Session of Parliament making provision for monitoring guidelines in medical research;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take care to ensure that the proposed legislation does not contain too many restrictions which would curb the already limited value of medical research currently carried on in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to make a comprehensive legislation on the ethical guidelines on Bio-Medical Research on human subjects. The need for uniform ethical guidelines for research on human has acquired urgency as the critical issues in the areas of biogenetic research involving human subjects have become acute. The legislation on the ethical guidelines is proposed with a view to ensure compliance by scientific community for protection of basic human rights and safety to research participants.

Funds provided by foreign financial institutions to Assam

57. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds provided by the foreign financial institutions to the Government of Assam for eradication of Malaria, Polio, Cancer, AIDS, Hapatitis-B etc.;

(b) the details of amount spent on these diseases in the State during the last three years; and